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FLOOR DEBATE

January 24, 2003 LB 245

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, LB 245 is the annual clean-up bill requested by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. The bill makes the following changes. On controlled substances, the bill amends the list of controlled substances in Section 28-405 to conform to the changes in federal law. The bill also, in DNA testing, the bill exempts blood alcohol samples from the DNA Testing Act. On child support, the bill changes the definition of support in Section 43-1716 to also include interest as provided by law, to make the definition consistent with other provisions of state and federal law. The bill also amends 43-1723 relating to when income holding for a child support obligation begins. Current law requires withholding to begin no later than the first pay period 14 days after the employer receives notice. The bill changes state law to conform to federal law, and requires income withholding to begin immediately with the first pay period following the receipt of notice by the employer. Water wells, the bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to be notified of registration and (sic) replacement water wells or abandonment of water wells. The Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure must determine by rule and regulation which contractor or owner is responsible to file the notice, and where there is more than one who could be required to file. Failure to file required notice is added as a ground for discipline under the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Act. Outdated sections relating to wells and pitfalls also are outright repealed. The bill covers respiratory care. It deletes obsolete provisions relating to temporary permits for respiratory care practitioners. And on podiatry, the bill changes provisions relating to competency examinations for podiatrists, and requires the Board of Podiatry to approve the examination but not to administer it. The bill provides for a biennial instead of annual renewal of licenses for veterinary technicians, and changes the range of their licensing fees. The bill adds pharmacists, physicians, psychologists and psychiatrists who are employed by agencies of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System to the list of employees who are exempt from state personnel system. This change doesn't affect current employees of the system. And the bill has an operative date of January 1, 2004. The bill was unanimously